

Remarks

The non-final Office Action mailed April 19, 2006 rejected claims 1-3, 10-12, 15-16, 19, 21-22 and 25, and objected to claims 4-9, 13-14, 18 and 23-24. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 10-12, 15-16, 19, 21-22 and 25 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,491,598 to Stricklin et al. ("Stricklin '598) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,595,117 to Chrigui ("Chrigui '117"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Stricklin '598 at least fails to teach or suggest "*a damping assembly configured to suppress a torsional vibration mode of the body portion,*" such as featured by claim 1. Instead, Stricklin '598 teaches to suppress in-plane mode vibrations using a tuned mass damper. See e.g., col. 5, lines 1-3 and col. 6, lines 3-5.

The term "torsional" is a term of art and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning as understood by one skilled in the art consistent with the use of the term in the specification. *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303 (Fed. Cir. 2005)(*en banc*); *In re Morris*, 44 USPQ2d 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1997); MPEP 2111. Stricklin '598 is thus silent with regard to teaching or suggesting suppression of a torsional vibration mode, as claimed. See specification, page 6, lines 5-9; page 7, lines 3-9; page 8, lines 18-20 and FIG. 9.

Chrigui '117 teaches damping vibrations in an array of rollers in a printing press. This is not believed to constitute analogous art to the presently claimed subject matter. See e.g., *In re Bigio*, 381 F.3d 1320 (Fed. Cir. 2004).

Even if Chrigui '117 is available as a reference, however, it is noted that Chrigui '117 is also silent with regard to teaching or suggesting suppression of a torsional vibration mode, and instead teaches to dampen bending mode vibrations of the rollers. See col. 6, lines 21-24; FIGS. 2a-2d.

As neither of the cited references teach or suggest the claimed subject matter, the rejection under §103(a) of the claims is improper. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

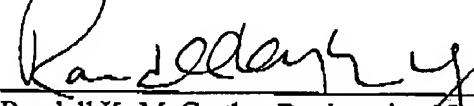
Conclusion

This is intended to be a complete response to the non-final Office Action mailed April 9, 2006.. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the below signed Attorney should any questions arise concerning this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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